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WHEN you see a Democrat who doesn't seem to want an office, look at him well; he is a rare curiosity.

MADAME MANDELBAUM has probably gone to Montreal merely to be present at the ice carnival, but the District Attorney in New York finds it such a "cold day" that he can have his ice-carnival at home.

WHAT makes Abe Buzzard mad is to have his name accented on the first syllable. He doesn't care for their firing their Winchester rifles at him, but firing bad orthodoxy at him is something he won't stand.

COLONEL FRANK A. BURR, of the Philadelphia Times, met Senator John Sherman the other day and drew from him a somewhat lengthy statement of his views of the politics of the future in this country. The Senator had, he said, been reading a history of the passage of the Reform Bill in England and was persuaded that we are about facing such a crisis. Both parties are disturbed by internal elements of opposition. Each party must deal with the labor question, both parties are divided on the tariff, and new conditions and new problems are arising. He does not believe we are to have new parties, but "perhaps a re-casting of the old ones on fresh and broader lines." He considers sectional issues settled so far as they may be. Every live question, he says, is practically a new one. Important commercial treaties upon which both parties will divide are pressing for settlement. Whichever shall deal with them so as to meet the favor of the country will be most successful. He hopes that the disposition of the revenue, the ratification or rejection of commercial treaties and the settlement of economic, industrial and social questions will be the light of our future political life for a long time to come. The Senator thinks that if Cleveland carries out the policy that many people assume that he will, he will disappoint some elements of his party, but he will doubtless draw to himself a large faction that supported him in the last election. It has been a disappointment to Southern constituents and they will do much to embarrass his administration. If they should, it is possible that four years from now the South may be divided as to the Presidential succession. The Senator is generally wise in his statesmanship, but just how he makes out that sectional questions are dead and that the tariff problem and others are new issues is something which is too deep for solution by the ordinary mind.

THERE are indications of a permanent revival in the iron trade in the very near future. The Iron Trade Review computes that within the past four weeks twenty-five iron working establishments have started up, giving employment to over twelve thousand men. In several of these establishments the working hours have been reduced to an average of eight hours, and in a large number the wages have been reduced an average of 12½ per cent. The project to restrict the production of pig-iron by banking the furnaces has died out, and it is said that the stock on hand is lighter than it has been at any time previous for several years.

PROTECTION.
Under the caption "Failed at Last" is an editorial in the Detroit Free Press of the 9th. It contains this statement: "Protection has failed at last to protect, and in ten years two prolonged and distressful commercial break-downs in this country have occurred in spite of a tariff. The reason is that all non-protected consumers have to carry on their backs the protected industries." It concludes with the sentence "Whatever the cause, protection has utterly failed to sustain its promised prosperity."

The Free Press seems to regard the tariff as an insurance against hard times and depressions in business and is preparing proceedings to have the contract forfeited. It does not claim that the abolition of the tariff would restore good times, nor that under free trade we would escape business stagnation. So long as producers and manufacturers can find buyers for their products they will continue to produce and manufacture in as large quantities as possible. If they cannot sell, the simple reason is that there is no one to buy, or if prices are low the palpable reason is that there are more goods in the market than there is demand for. Will it relieve matters to throw our gates open and admit a flood of foreign articles to increase the volume of our own products. The Free Press will not so claim. Furthermore it will not lessen the burdens which our own people have. A certain amount of money must be raised annually to pay the expenses of the government. The larger

part of this now comes from the duties on imports. If these were abolished it would not reduce the taxes. The money lost to the Treasury by the abolition of the tariff would have to be raised by other means at home, by a direct tax on lands, or a poll tax, or by a tax on home productions. In that case the burden paid by the consumers would be increased, as the amount of the tariff duties are not added probably in any instance to the price of the article. The home competition keeps down the price. Free traders, however, can not depart from the fallacy that the imposition of a duty necessarily increases the cost of the article to the consumer just the amount of the tariff.

In establishing rates of duty on foreign articles they are so placed as to protect home industries. All classes, farmers and manufacturers alike, are protected by relieving them from foreign competition not by adding so much to home products. All classes receive the benefits, the manufacturer on his goods, the farmer on his products, the workman on his employment. The manufacturer will suffer when foreign goods exclude him from the market. The workman when he has no employment. The farmer when the factories are idle. Home productions and home consumption is the wisest policy. The evils which exist must be cured or lessened by other means than those indicated by the Free Press. Free trade doctors have no remedy for them.

CURRENT COMMENT.
Chicago Inter Ocean: Since the election nearly everything has dropped in price except whisky.

Washington Post: A little boy in one of the city German schools, while engaged in defining words a few days since, made a mistake which was not a mistake. He said: "A demagogue is a vessel that holds beer, wine, gin, whisky, or any other kind of intoxicating liquor."

Philadelphia Times: It would be better to pass Senator Mitchell's pension bill for General Grant than not to pass any bill recognizing his claim upon the gratitude of the country; but it would be much more appropriate and much more creditable to both the country and General Grant, to place him on the retired list as general of the army.

Louisville Times: There are few avenues open to the colored youth. The number who have capital is limited, and necessity forces them to take menial places in hotels, on railroads, in stores and in private families. The great danger that threatens the future of the negro is the forced ignorance of them as to trades. It must be met and overcome.

Washington Republican: Cleveland, therefore, cannot be a mugwump. He said truly when he told the Jerseyman that his administration would be Democratic. Necessity compels it to be. The Democratic party blunders sometimes, but nowhere in city, State and Nation has it made the blunder of not taking the offices when they were within reach.

Toledo Commercial-Telegram: The fact that Governor Cleveland requested his son to make the visit to Albany, and the fact that the said son was closeted with the Governor for a long time, is causing great pain to the anti-Payne Democrats here and throughout the state. They construe it to signify that Payne will be dictator for Ohio—a fact mentioned in these columns many days ago.

At Home in a Tree.
[N. Y. Sun.]

A matronly cat with sleek, brown fur, and a kitten with a coal-black head and snow-white coat lay side by side against a crumbling headstone in St. Paul's graveyard Saturday afternoon. A young man who sauntered through the paths reading the time-stained stones, stooped to pet the kitten. It and the big cat sprang up simultaneously, and scampering like a flash to a tall tree that shaded the railings at the Vasey street side of the graveyard, disappeared.

"Gosh!" exclaimed the saunterer, turning to the gardener. "Where did those cats go to, any way?"

"Up the tree," drawled the old man, continuing to weed grave mounds. "They lives in it."

Large holes yawn at the roots of the tree and penetrate upward several feet into the interior of the trunk. Leaves are thickly padded inside and pressed down like a nest. In the trunk of the tree lay the big cat and near it crouched the frisky kitten, its bright eyes glistening among the leaves.

"The old cat's been here for an age," said a car-starter afterward. "People in the neighborhood make pets of both the animals, and feed them regularly. The cats are perfectly at home in the graveyard, and they chase the rats and mice that come out of the warehouses 'round here at night and go scampering over the graves. Nobody could hurt the cats, even if anybody were so disposed, for the animals are too quick for 'em. They just fly around when they want to be let alone, and even an acrobat couldn't catch them."

The Ruins of Fort Sumter.
[Charleston (S. C.) News.]

Fort Sumter is now a very insignificant place compared to what it once was. It has been razed to one story, and looks quite dilapidated. It has on it a few guns, not more than half a dozen, and the foundation of the traverses of the best guns are rotten and unfit for even ten minutes of service. The Government pays \$200 per month to a man and his assistants to keep the lights on this fort and to watch it. The channel between the fort and Morris Island has almost filled up, and at low water the sand is visible almost across.

An Impending Calamity.
[London Truth.]

The astronomers at the Greenwich Observatory have been making calculations as to the pace of the star Arcturus in his progress towards the earth. They find, as the result of twenty-one observations, that this beautiful, scintillating star is coming for us at the rate of fifty miles and seventy-eight one-hundredths per second. This amounts to about 3,000 miles a minute, 180,000 miles an hour, or 4,300,000 miles a day. If Arcturus makes a straight shot we will probably be knocked into smithereens, but not for 80,000 years yet.

AN ECCENTRIC SPENDTHRIFT.
Arrest of a Man Who Spent \$1,000 a Week for Wine.
[Milwaukee Sentinel.]

News was received from Waukesha yesterday of the arrest of a man at that place who is known as "The Count." The charge against him is swindling a bank in Stockholm, Sweden, out of an immense sum of money. If the Waukesha authorities have the right man they have captured one who has painted more cities deep scarlet than any man in America, and whose life has been a continual romance of dissipation for five years. He is a small fellow, his weight being perhaps 125 pounds, and he has a pale, melancholy cast of countenance, which in his rare sober moments would lead the observer to believe that he might be a theological student in disguise; but his chief charm lies in his bona fide nobility combined with the possession of what appears to be the purse of Fortunatus. No one has ever discovered definitely the history of "The Count," but it is believed his family name is Eckhardt. His first notable appearance in this country was in Kansas City, where his associations and lavish expenditures attracted the attention of the police. Inquiries were made, and the Swedish Consul at St. Louis said he was all right as far as known. "The Count" had a habit of spending \$1,000 or more for wine in a single week. This eccentricity was too gaudy for even the erratic West, and more inquiries were made, but they resulted in nothing.

One day the dissipated nobleman meandered into a ten-pin alley, followed by a negro with two large hampers. "The Count" asked the proprietor how much he would charge for rolling ten-pins after a style peculiar to the questioner. The proprietor said he could roll ten-pins any way from Graeco-Roman to cushion caroms for one dollar per hour, cash in advance. "The Count" handed the proprietor a five-dollar bill and told the negro to go to the end of the alley and set up the pins. The latter did as directed, and was followed by the man who owned the alley. The servants opened the hampers and took out ten bottles of Veuve Clicquot, worth four dollars and a half a quart. While the proprietor was trying to prevent paralysis from overtaking him, the negro gravely set up the bottles and climbed up on a cross-beam. The proprietor did likewise. "The Count" very gravely selected a small ball, and with a nervous motion sent it up among the cross-beams. The negro and the proprietor relinquished their seats and went behind "The Count," who selected the heaviest ball he could find, and at the first roll made a ten strike. In three rolls he demolished the two cases and calmly walked out.

This was again too much for the police, and they arrested him. They could do nothing, and he was released. One night, shortly after his release, the police found him in a house of ill-fame and locked him up. He was maudlin and offered the contents of a trick tobacco box to any one who could open it. No one tried, and he was permitted to take the box along with him to his cell, where he slept all night among a herd of fellow drunks. In the morning he opened the box after he had paid his fine and displayed two diamonds of the most remarkable brilliancy and size. They could not have been worth less than \$10,000.

One day he disappeared mysteriously from Kansas City, and shortly afterward it was learned that he had swindled a Stockholm bank out of about \$300,000, and that he had not been arrested, as his relatives had promised to settle. His relatives failed to "square" his account, and he was arrested about a year ago at St. Paul. He was taken back and convicted, but again escaped through the influence of his family. It is said he was also guilty of murder, but of this nothing positive is known.

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